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Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 01820 201436Z

44
ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

/023 W
---------- 105613
R 201419Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1908
AMCONSUL DURBAN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, SF
SUBJ: IV'S PHILIP SANDERS AND NORMAN MIDDLETON

REF: STATE 115999

1. NORMAN MIDDLETON, MEMBER CRC, ORIGINALLY APPLIED FOR SA PASSPORT IN EARLY 1974 FOR VISIT TO UK AND WEST GERMANY BUT DEPARTMENT INTERIOR PRETORIA SET OUT NUMBER OF CONDITIONS WHICH MIDDLETON WAS NOT WILLING TO ACCEPT. SINCE THEN, SUBJECT WAS CHOSEN AS USIS IV GRANTEE AND NEW PASSPORT APPLICATION MADE. WE BELIEVE INTERIOR STILL INSISTING THAT MIDDLETON AGREE TO THOSE CONDITIONS. HOWEVER, HE CLAIMS CONDITIONS ARE NO LONGER VALID IN VIEW OF DIFFERENT REASONS FOR TRAVEL.

2. EMBASSY CONSULAR SECTION HAS INQUIRED WITH INTERIOR PERIODICALLY ON STATUS HIS APPLICATION AS WE HAVE DONE IN MANY OTHER SIMILAR INSTANCES, IN EFFORT ASSIST IN OBTAINING PASSPORT. THESE HAVE BEEN LOW-KEY. (OUR LETTER CONCERNING MIDDLETON OF MAY 1 BEING TELEXED CAPE TOWN.) OUR LAST INQUIRY WAS BY TELEPHONE MAY 16 TO INTERIRO TERBLANCHE, HEAD OF PASSPORT DIVISION, WHO STATED ONLY THAT CASE HAD BEEN REFERRED TO MINISTER IN CAPE TOWN FOR DECISION.
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 01820 201436Z

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EM SHORTLY AFTER MATTER DISCUSSED TELEPHONICALLY WITH DURBAN MAY 20, CONSULAR OFFICER TREMBLAY PRETORIA RECEIVED A PERSONAL CALL FROM DEPUTY SECRETARY OF INTERIOR BOOYENS (WHOM TREMBLAY HAS NEVER MET). HE TOLD TREMBLAY THAT EMBASSY WAS TO STOP MEDDLING IN SA INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE PULLED NO PUNCHES AND CAME DURECTLY TO THE POINT: THAT HE, AS DEPUTY SECRETARY OF INTERIOR, WHICH HE EMPHASIZED, QUOTE PREFERS TO DEAL WITH OWN CITIZENS UNQUOTE IN ALL SUCH PASSPORT CASES. HE STATED THAT HE WISHED THE EMBASSY NOT RPT NOT INTERFERE ON BEHALF OF SOUTH AFRICA'S OWN CITIZENS FOR FUTURE PASSPORT REQUESTS. WHILE TAKEN ABACK AND UNABLE TO GET A WORD IN EDGEWISE, CONSULAR OFFICER DID INFORM BOOYENS THAT MESSAGE WOULD BE CONVEYED TO AMBASSADOR.

4. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, COMPLETELY SPECULATIVE AS TO OUTCOME OF CASE. AS WILL BE SEEN FROM TEXT TREMBLAY-TERBLANCHE LETTER OF MAY 1, IT SEEMS HARD TO CONSTRUE OUR LETTER OF INQUIRY AS "INTERFERING".
BOWDLER

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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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